

[< Home](#)



TORONTO | News

Anti-lockdown protests downtown were 'not safe,' Tory says



Bryann Aguilar

CP24 Web Content Writer

[@BryannAguilar](#) | [Contact](#)

Published Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:35PM EST

Last Updated Sunday, January 17, 2021 9:50AM EST

SHARE:

Tweet

Reddit

Share 1.1K

TORONTO -- Mayor John Tory says he is glad police officers responding to anti-lockdown protests in the city's downtown core on Saturday ticketed people who weren't following the rules, calling the demonstrations "not right" and "not safe."

Hundreds of protesters could be seen marching in the streets downtown on Saturday afternoon, calling for an end to lockdown measures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Officers responding to the protests broke up demonstrators, who had gathered at Nathan Phillips Square and Yonge-Dundas Square.

CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

- **Ontario expands eligibility for 4th COVID-19 vaccine dose, but healthy adults can wait until fall**
- **Ontario expands PCR testing and treatments for COVID-19. This is who's eligible**
- **Need a refresher? Here's what to do if you get COVID-19 in Ontario right now**
- **Full list of where to get free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in Ontario**
- **Ontario's mask mandate has ended in most places. Here's where you still need one**
- **Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada**

Three people were arrested, including two of the organizers, who were charged with common nuisance.

A 22-year-old was also charged with assaulting a police officer and obstructing police.

A total of 18 charges of failing to comply with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act were laid as a result of the protest, according to police.

Tory said protesters also gathered outside his condo building on Saturday.

"I understand the right to protest, but in my case they not only demonstrate contrary to the regulations that are out there, and they do the same outside of Premier Ford's house... they also stop people from people from coming in and out of their homes in our building," Tory said Sunday.

"It results in people living where I live, and same with Premier Ford's neighbours, to be told to have to stay in completely, they can't even go for the walk the rest of us are able to go for or go to the grocery store or anything like that."



The mayor said he was pleased that enforcement action was taken against the protesters this weekend.

"Putting the rules and regulations aside... it is also just unsafe for them with each other. I know they say they don't believe that. It is a risk to other people who are out and about. It is just no right and it is not safe," he said.

"The police do what they have to do and I'm glad, even though I don't give the direction to the police, that they wrote some tickets yesterday. I find it very distressing that someone assaulted a police officer. I mean free speech is one thing and assaulting a police officer is entirely different."

As part of a new series of public health measures implemented by the province last week, all Ontario residents have been told to only go out for essential purposes as part of a stay-at-home order.

The number of people permitted to gather outdoors has also been reduced from 10 to five people.

"Our officers will be on scene for any of these protests. Any large gatherings of more than five people, we will have uniform presence there, and charges will be laid if necessary," Const. Alex Li said Saturday.

"We're appealing and urging for public and citizens to just please do your part and stay at home. Protect yourselves, protect the broader community."

RELATED IMAGES



SHARE:

[Tweet](#)[Reddit](#)[Share 1.1K](#)[🔔 Report Errors](#)[🔔 News Tips](#)[🛡️ Editorial standards and policies](#)[📰 Why you can trust CTV News](#)

TORONTO TOP STORIES



Siblings killed in fiery Brampton, Ont. car crash identified by family



Burned human remains in shallow grave discovered in Pickering, Ont.



TTC riders will face fees up to \$425 for fare evasion again soon



Toronto police search for 3 suspects after two armed carjackings on the same day



Police release additional photos of suspects wanted for group assault in Liberty Village



CUPE sets strike votes for end of September, says it doesn't guarantee walkout

WATCH MORE FROM CTV NEWS



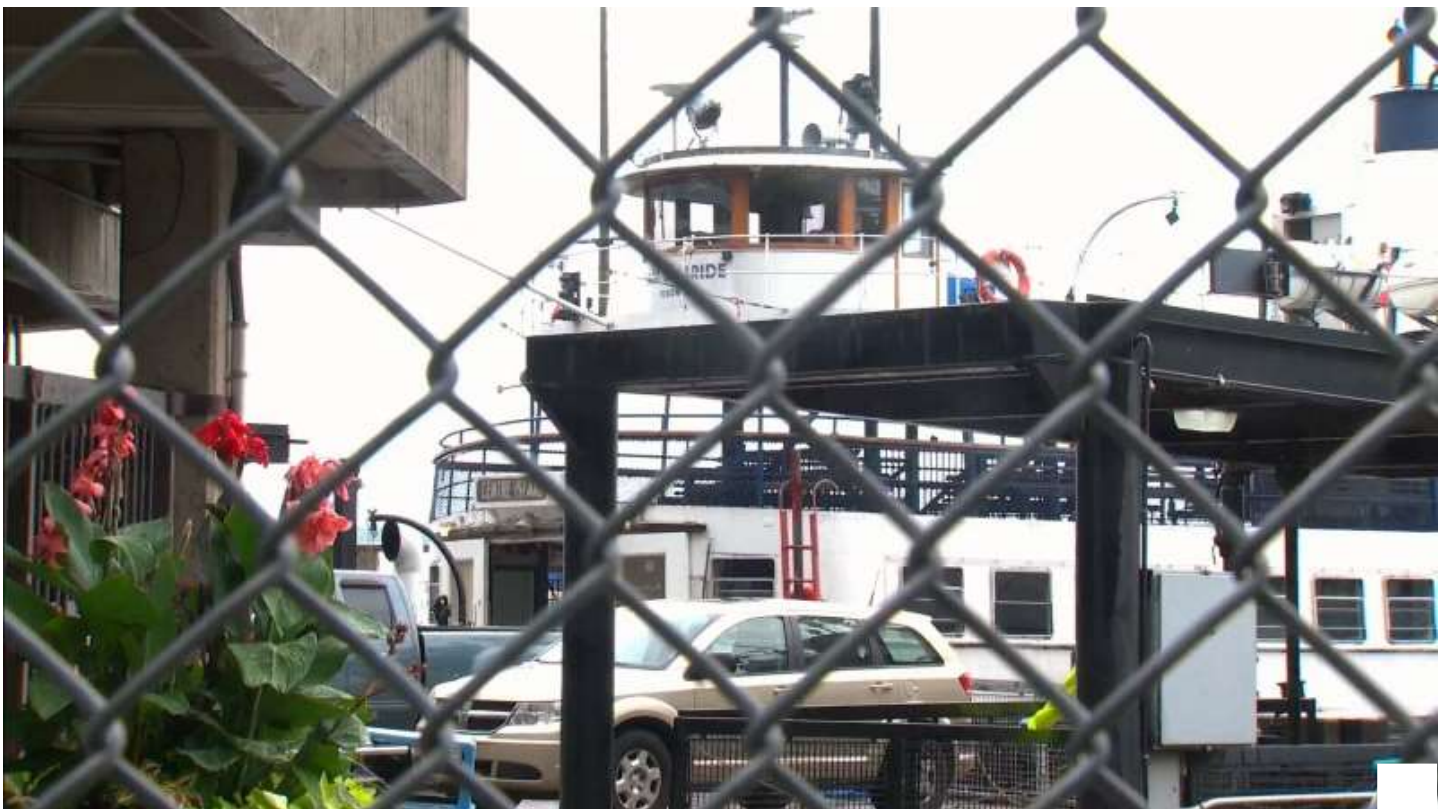
Person kayaks down flooded street in Brampton, Ont.



3 teen siblings killed in fiery crash in Brampton, Ont.



T.O. police release photos of woman believed to be abducted



Toronto ferry crash: Service will be slow for rest of 2022



Should you help your child finish their homework?



Here's why Bogoch says there's a 'challenging winter' ahead

CONSUMER ALERT



Could a mattress topper help you sleep at night?



Scotiabank refuses to buy back Ontario woman's gold and silver



This is where home prices are holding steady or still going up in Ontario



'Novelty' screwdriver that looks like replica handgun raising concerns



Huge country music festival cancelled for third time and fans want refunds, answers



Parents may need a prescription for some children's liquid medication, SickKids warns

COVID-19 IN ONTARIO



'We are on the right track:' Toronto formally ends municipal state of emergency after 777 days



Local medical officers of health pen letter to Ontario's top doctor asking for mask mandates back



Ontario Liberals pledge to add COVID-19 vaccine to school immunization list



Nearly half of eligible Toronto residents have now received a fourth dose of COVID-19 vaccine



Will Toronto's fun summer programs stick around as COVID restrictions ease?



Fourth doses in Ontario: When should you get one?

CTVNEWS.CA TOP STORIES



Iconic Sir Winston Churchill photograph stolen from Chateau Laurier, replaced with copy



Feds cut funding for anti-racism project over 'vile' tweets



U.S. lawmakers, advocates pushing Ottawa to eliminate ArriveCan, open Nexus offices



Stunning images capture the aurora borealis across Canada over the weekend



Touting clean energy, PM Trudeau questions 'business case' for exporting liquefied natural gas to Europe



Trump's turbulent White House years culminate in Florida search

DON'T MISS



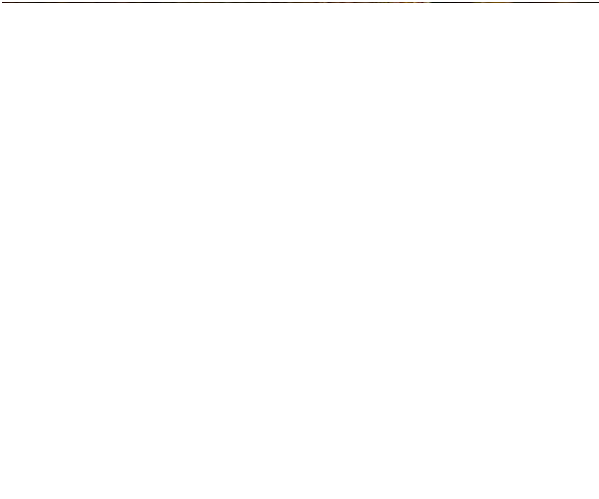
LISTEN: NASA says this is what a black hole sounds like



Mysterious lights seen over Ont., Que. likely satellites



A look at the dismal state of health care across Canada



Advertisement

MOST-WATCHED



Person kayaks down flooded Brampton, Ont. street



Fiery collision in Brampton leaves 3 dead



Doctor says plan 'disrespectful and dangerous'



Four-car collision prompts evacuation

MOST-READ



Girl, 17, accused of helping recruit 16-year-old girl into sex trade



Pension plan groups to oppose Magna share plan



Hamilton police officer sentenced to 12 years for bribery, cocaine trafficking



Sex assault suspect spotted on surveillance cam at Bay Station



Police officer sustains serious injuries after crash involving Justin Trudeau's motorcade

TOTALLY TORONTO



Wild food on the menu at this year's CNE



Famous musician touched by stranger's act of kindness while visiting Toronto



Toronto man wins \$20M with lottery numbers used for 36 years



Wonderland reveals plan for new 'one of a kind' ride coming next year

FOLLOW ON



Political Ads Registry

Use of this Website assumes acceptance of [Terms & Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

© 2021  All rights reserved.